

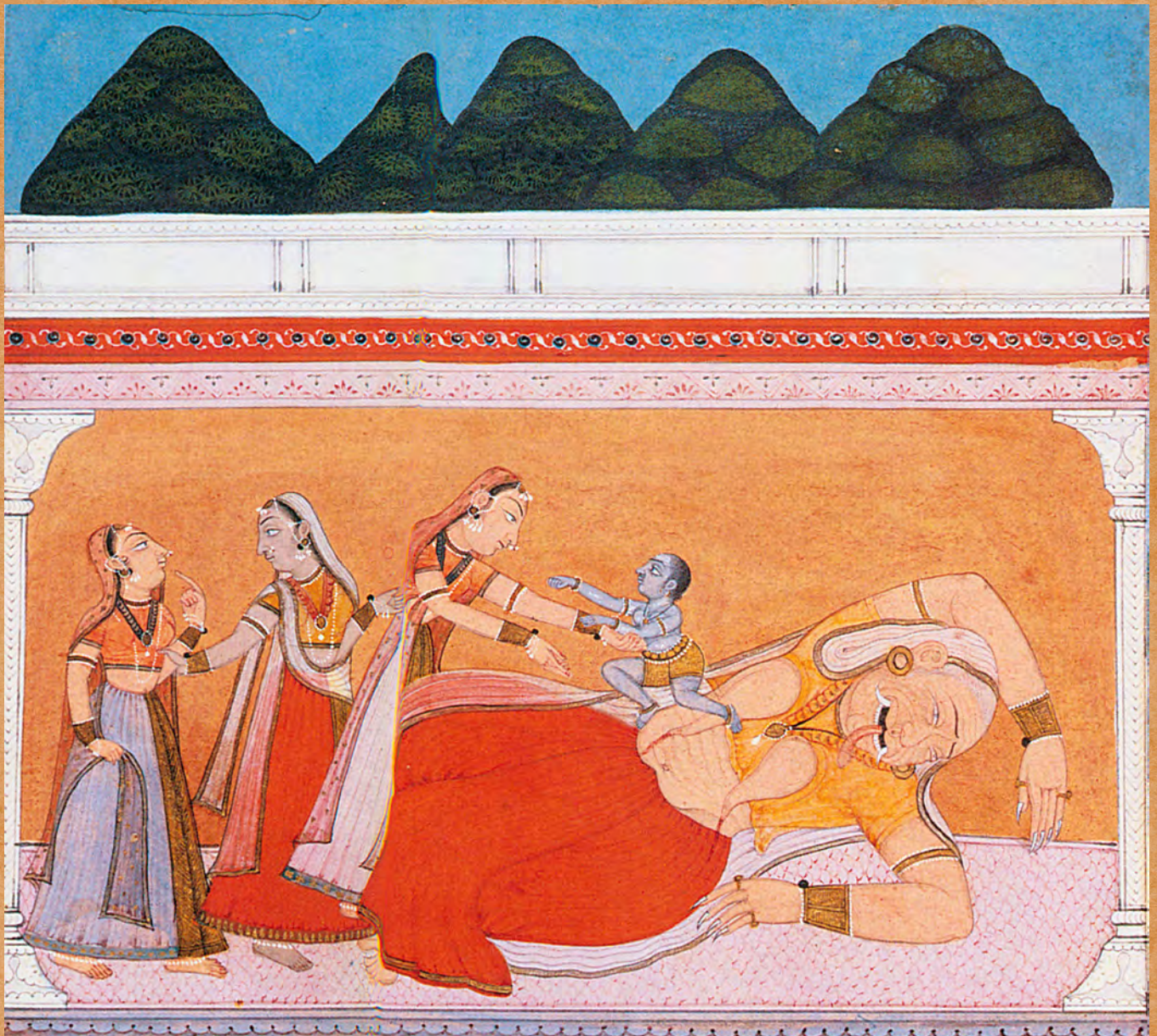
# *Sri Krishna Kathamrita*



## *Bindu*

Issue 576

*Putana in the Puranas*







# Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

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## THE JUNCTION OF AUSPICIOUS AND INASUPICIOUS



His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

One night, after the Putana demon had been killed, baby Krishna could be seen playing upon her breast. Upon seeing this, Yashoda became stunned for some time. This is an example of a conjunction of various symptoms of ecstatic love. The conjunction can be auspicious or inauspicious. That the Putana demon had been killed was auspicious, but that Krishna was playing on her breast in the dead of night, with no one to help him in case of trouble, was inauspicious. Yashoda was caught between auspiciousness and inauspiciousness. 🍌

— From chapter 31 of *Nectar of Devotion*. Bhaktivedanta Book Trust. Bombay, 1989.



Cover: "Krishna kills Putana". Signed by Laharu. 1758 CE. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh.



Unknown artist. Sculpture from Kerala. Circa 1601-1700.

*Krishna sucking the breast of Putana*



Unknown artist, Mural from Devī Kothī temple built in 1754, Churah Valley Himalayas.



Krishna killing Putana

**SERVICE TO THE  
DHAM RENDERED  
BY THE DEMONS**



**Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada**

There are always two kinds of people in relation to the actual truth, the favorable and the unfavorable. The *Vrajavāsīs*, who are favored by the Supreme Lord and who worship him in five rasas, are the favorable servants and preachers. Agha, Baka, Putana, Kamsa, Jarasandha, and others are Krishna's unfavorable preachers. The preaching of the Aghas, Bakas, and Putanas against *Śrī Dhāma* will expand the *dhāma's* glories. Although the Aghas, Bakas, and Putanas tried to kill Krishna, they couldn't do it. Yet they indirectly spread his glories. Similarly, those envious of the *dhāma*, even though blinded by self-interest, can never destroy the eternal, transcendental *dhāma* because it cannot be destroyed. Rather, the attempt simply helps spread the *dhāma's* glories. 🍌

— From *Śrī Vaktṛtāvalī*. Translated by Bhumipati Das. A lecture given at the Yogapitha in Sridham Mayapur. 14 January 1926. Touchstone Media. Kolkata. 2014.

**PUTANA  
REPRESENTS THE  
FALSE GURU**



**Srila Thakur Bhaktivinode's  
Śrī Caitanya-śikṣāmṛta 6.6**

**Pūtanāvadha** — *pūtanā bhukti-mukti śikṣaka kapaṭaguru. Bhukti-mukti priya kapaṭa sādhu-gaṇa o pūtanā-tattva. Śudha-bhaktera prati kṛpā kariyā bāla-kṛṣṇa svīya nava-udita bhāvake rakṣā karibāra janya pūtanā vadha karena.*

Putana symbolizes a pseudo-spiritual master who teaches material enjoyment and liberation. Those pseudo-sādhus who are fond of material enjoyment and liberation belong to the category of Putana. Out of compassion for pure devotees, the child Krishna killed Putana. 🍌

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Unknown artist. From the Bhagavata Purana. Rajasthan, probably Sirohi, c. 1725.

Mother Yashoda finds Krishna playing on the dead body of Putana

## MERCY ON PUTANA



**Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja**

aho bakī yaṁ stana-kāla-kūṭaṁ  
jighāṁsayāpāyayad apy asādhvī  
lebhe gatiṁ dhātry-ucitāṁ tato 'nyāṁ  
kaṁ vā dayāluṁ śaraṇaṁ vrajema

[Uddhava speaking to Vidura:] Alas, how shall I take shelter of one more merciful than he who granted the position of mother to a she-demon [Putana], although she was unfaithful and she prepared deadly poison to be sucked from her breast? (Bhāg. 3.2.23)

Krishna is so merciful! Putana came, smearing a very dreadful poison on her breast to kill Krishna. She allowed Krishna to suck her breast, and thereby did the work of Mother Yashoda. Krishna sucks the breast of Mother Yashoda and Putana did the same thing.

Krishna sucked out her life air. She was dead. Still Krishna gave her a position equal with Mother Yashoda because she did the work of mother. Krishna is so merciful, *kaṁ vā dayāluṁ śaraṇaṁ vrajema*, who will not take shelter of Krishna? Who will take shelter of anything else other than Krishna? He is so merciful! But I am the most degraded, most sinful, most unqualified person, most hopeless person. I have no qualification. I am not worthy at all. This is the mood.

The purport is that if you can't develop this mood of *ṭṭṇād api sunīcena, taror iva sahiṣṇunā, amānina mānadena*, then you can't chant *hare kṛṣṇa*. Your chanting is either *nāma-aparādha*, offensive chanting, or, at best, *nāmābhāsa*. Not the pure name. If you go on chanting in this way for crores of lives you cannot get *kṛṣṇa-prema*, you cannot get Krishna. But if you chant in this mood it is guaranteed, you must get, he says, *avaśya pāibe*. Yes. This is the process, how to chant *hare kṛṣṇa*. This is Mahāprabhu's teaching. 🍌

— From a lecture in ISKCON Bhubaneswar. 23 April 1992.





Painting by Kailash Raj.

Krishna and the gopīs — megha-rāga





Kamsa and his demon minions. In the demons pictured, Putana is the second from the left on top

## PUTANA'S PAST LIFE



### Ādi Purāṇa chapter 18

Sri Krishna once told a story to Narada Muni about the powerful rishi named Kalabhiru, who one day on the bank of the Saraswati river gave his daughter Charumathi in marriage to the great devotee known as Kakshivanta. Aside from being extremely beautiful, Charumathi was the embodiment of good qualities. As a good wife, Charumathi told her husband, “As householders it is important for us to worship Lord Hari. If a husband and wife don’t worship Lord Hari, then they will go to hell.” Hearing these wise words from his wife, Kakshivanta gave up everything else and focused on worshiping the Lord. From that day on he would not accept even a drop of water to drink until he had performed his daily worship of Lord Hari.

They followed this together as husband and wife for a long time, and gradually both of them attained unconditional love for Krishna and were always singing his glories. Kakshivanta would preach about Lord Krishna and would also listen

with rapt attention when others would glorify the Lord. In this way, along with his wife, Kakshivanta worshiped the lotus feet of Lord Vishnu via the nine processes of devotion (*nava-vidha bhakti*).

Krishna said, “Oh Narada Muni! The righteous couple worshiped me with unconditional love, and I happily accepted their services. After some time, Kakshivanta planned to go on a pilgrimage, and before leaving he gave instructions to his faithful wife Charumathi, “My dear wife! You should not offer any services to the Lord without first adorning your forehead with *tilaka*. You shouldn’t decorate yourself with any other flowers other than the flowers that have touched the lotus feet of the Lord. You shouldn’t accept any auspicious items without offering them to the Lord. You should always remember Lord Krishna at all times. Don’t forget him at any cost and don’t frequently visit other people’s homes if they are not our family. Other than at the time of Śrī Kṛṣṇotsava you should not talk with any other man. You should not visit another man’s house on the pretext of entertainment.

[**Translators note:** The verse only says “*kṛṣṇotsava*”. It’s not clear if this is referring to *Kṛṣṇa-janmāṣṭamī* or some other specific festival, or in general festivals for the worship of Krishna.]





Unknown artist. Jammu, Kashmir. Circa 1740 - 1760.

Krishna sucked out the life of Putana





Unknown artist. Vintage wood carving, South India.

*The demoness Putana offers her breast to Krishna*

“Other than people who gamble and don’t worship Sri Hari, you should not frown or speak ill words to any guest that arrives at our home. While doing your household duties you should offer your heart and soul to the lotus feet of Lord Hari. Don’t waste your time uselessly without serving the Lord.”

Instructing his faithful wife Charumathi in this way, Kakshivanta left his house and went for his pilgrimage. Charumathi respectfully obeyed the orders of her husband and worshiped Sri Hari with undivided attention and love. After some days had passed, Charumathi, without lifting her view from the ground, was walking towards a nearby forest to collect fruits and flowers for the worship of Lord Hari.

She quickly collected flowers and fruits and started walking back to their ashrama. At that time, she noticed that a *śūdra* who wanted to engage in sex life with her and wanted to destroy her worship of Lord Hari was following her closely. That *śūdra* was a big sinner. Even though Charumathi denied him, the *śūdra* did

not give up his attempts at capturing her. Speaking romantically, the *śūdra* stood in her way and gradually began to intoxicate her with ideas of sense gratification.

Krishna said, “Oh Narada, listen to me carefully, I will tell you exactly what that *śūdra* said to the girl: ‘Every living entity in this world attains happiness through sex life. In this world, all entities from Lord Brahma to a tiny insect are always engaged in gratifying their senses. Even though the entire world is engaged through this, some foolish people give up sense gratification and live their life in celibacy. Those people are driven by the desire to attain liberation and perform good deeds. Yet at the time of death, they don’t achieve that liberation they wished for. So-called great rishis who desire liberation, control their senses and worship Hari are simply wasting their time and are not enjoying life. They also don’t attain liberation. Therefore, people who are fit to enjoy life should not waste their body and punish it. Understanding all this you should accept me who





*The pastime of killing Putana*

are ready to serve you through different types of sense gratification. Let us live together. Dear girl! Happiness is the best fruit life can give. That happiness is received only when a man and woman join together. Isn't it very difficult for a woman to spend her time without her husband? O girl with a thin waist! What happiness are you going to get by punishing your body in this way? You have in your possession ultimate beauty and exquisite features and youth. Do not act in a way to waste your beauty and youth. All human bodies are the same. Some stupid people invent differences like caste, and creed and thereby ruin life. These different *varṇas* and caste systems are useless. By decorating your body, you are worshipping it. Your perfect body is ideal to decorate with precious jewels and gems. Are these heavenly planets and liberation worth punishing the body? Therefore, my dear girl! Come with me and enjoy this world!"

Charumathi became intoxicated by the words of that *śūdra*. That pure girl lost her senses and fell into the trap of that attractive *śūdra*. By nature, the mind is weak and unstable. It has the capacity to change its

character in terms of its association. It stays good in association with devotees and develops duality and is filled with lust in association with non-devotees. Those who desire self-realization should avoid association of wicked people, whereas the association of good people will give happiness to a man in this world and in the next world.

In association of that ill-minded *śūdra*, that young girl also became an ill-minded *śūdra*. After some time, her husband, Kakshivanta returned from his *tirtha-yātra*. Upon his arrival home, Kakshivanta noted that his wife had changed. She was now filled with lust, her mind was unstable, and she had not performed her household duties.

The compassionate Kakshivanta spoke good words and tried to awaken Charumathi from the shackles of *māyā* and bring her back to the path of virtue. But she did not agree to change. At that time, out of anger and disgust, Kakshivanta cursed her as follows.

"You wicked-minded witch! Since you cheated on me and took up association with a *śūdra*, you have become contaminated and have disrespected our dynasty.





*The Vrajavasis cut up the dead body of Putana*

Therefore, may you take birth as a *rākṣasā*! As a *rākṣasā*, you will perform all sinful activities, and will cause disturbance in the world. Yet, one day in the future, Sri Krishna will kill you and give you liberation from that *rākṣasā* birth. Since you have performed *bhakti* and many good things in this life, no misfortune will fall upon you. A person who prays to Lord Vishnu and is his devotee for even a few days never meets misfortune.”

Krishna said, “Hey Narada! In this way, because of Kakshivanta’s curse, Charumathi took birth as the *rākṣasī* Putana. I have disclosed this topic to you. What else do you want to know, my dear Narada?”

Narada replied, “Oh Krishna! How could you touch Putana, whose thoughts and mind were completely contaminated? How could you drink milk from her breast?”

Sri Krishna then told Narada the following story: Once upon a time there lived a Rishi named Cyavana. Due to performing strict austerities he purified his mind and soul and surrendered them unto my lotus feet. In this way, after many years of austerity, the sage attained eternal peace. The *rākṣasās* in Patalaloka did not like this and wanted to put a stop to his austerity.

While Cyavana Rishi was performing his austerities, these *rākṣasās* began to sing and dance. Hearing their filthy and harsh voices, the sage opened his eyes and broke his austerities. Seeing the *rākṣasās* who had broken his austerities, the sage then looked down on his own body. At that time the sage produced different powerful demigods from his body. They immediately killed the 60,000 *rākṣasās* that were present there. After killing the demons, the demigods out of humility and gratitude told the rishi, “Oh sage! We are all your servants. Instruct us on what to do further.”

Cyavana Rishi replied, “Dear demigods! Go to Lord Shiva and start worshipping him. Learn from him what’s your next duty.” Accepting these instructions, the demigods went to see Lord Shiva. Upon arriving there they were surprised to see Lord Shiva, who had Mother Parvati sitting on his lap, while both were in deep meditation. Noting the beautiful features of Parvati they were smitten with lust. Realizing their offence, they condemned their minds. “Our mind is our biggest enemy. We have to destroy its desires. Great people don’t wish for another person’s wife. Having lustful desires for



Signed by Laharu. 1758 CE. Chamba, Himachal Pradesh



*Mother Yashoda and the elderly gopīs retrieve Krishna from the lap of the dead body of Putana*

another man's wife is a great sin. Let us make Lord Shiva happy and not make this mistake again."

Saying this, the demigods waited for Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati to return to external consciousness. After 2000 years of austerity and meditation Lord Shiva finally opened his eyes. As soon as he opened his eyes, he cast a loving glance at Mother Parvati. The demigods folded their hands together and with hearts full of regret, revealed their offence of having lustful thoughts of Mother Parvati. "Oh Mahadeva! We have come here on the instructions of the sage Cyavana. Arriving here, we saw you and Mother Parvati performing austerities. By mistake, we had lustful thoughts for Mother Parvati. Our faulty minds committed this lustful and disgusting mistake. Only you can relieve us of that sin. Please give us a proper punishment so that we never make this mistake again."

Happy with them that they had confessed their sins, Lord Shiva told them, "O demigods! You will have to take birth as the sons of a man named Krishanu. A demoness named Putana will breastfeed you with

poisoned milk and kill you all. Later, when Kamsa instructs Putana, she will smear her breast with poison and go to Nanda Gokula. Then she will place Krishna on her lap and feed him. At that time the Lord will drink from her breast and kill her. Then you will attain liberation from your birth on the earth."

Krishna said, "O Narada! Lord Shiva spoke these words to the demigods. To fulfill his words, I drank the breast milk of Putana." 🍌

—Ādi Purāṇa, with Hindi translation. Published by Khemraj. 1929. Translated by Yashoda Pavani Dasi.

## THE CHARLATAN'S CIRCUS



### A song by Sri Bhagavat Rasik

"Sri Bhagavat Rasik" is the pen name of Bhagavati Prasad. He was a saint of the Haridāsa Sampradāya in Vrindavan. He was born on the day of Akṣaya-tṛtīyā in 1733. His father's name was Madhava Das. Seeing the devotion of his son, Madhava Das voluntarily surrendered



him to a saint named Lalit Mohani Das who was also from the Haridāsa Sampradāya. Sri Bhagavat Rasik composed many songs on various devotional and social topics. One of his compositions is as follows:

**Sāraṅga Rāga**

*veṣa-dhārī hari ke ura sālai*

*lobhī dambhī kapaṭī naṭa se, sisnodara ko pālai*

(Refrain) A charlatan spiritualist gives immense pain to the heart of Hari. By making a greedy, proud and deceitful show, he maintains his belly and genitals.

*guru bhayau ghara-ghara me ḍolai*  
*nāma dhanī kau becai*

*paramāratha sapane nahi jānai*  
*paisana hī kau khaimcai*

Becoming an influential guru, such a swindler spiritualist roams about in each and every home and sells Bhagavan's name to the rich. Thoughts of real spiritual welfare never occur to him, even in his dreams. He simply pulls money from the rich and prosperous.

*kabahuṅka vaktā hai bani baiṭhe*  
*kathā bhāgavata gāvai*

*artha-anartha kachū nahīn bhāsai*  
*paisani hī kau dhāvai*

Sometimes, he becomes an expert orator and sings *bhāgavata-kathā*. Yet, he doesn't even comprehend the basic meanings of the *bhāgavatam*, nor does he



Unknown artist. Vintage Rajasthani painting.

comprehend the grave mistakes he is making while explaining the text. He just runs after money.

*kabahuka hari-mandira kau sevai*  
*karai nirantara vāsā*

*bhāva-bhakti ko lesa na jānai*  
*paisana hī kī āsā*

Alternatively, he pretends to be a big servitor in a temple and constantly stays there. He doesn't understand even a shred of *bhāva-bhakti*. His only hope in life is money.

*nācai gāvai citra banāvai*  
*karai kāvya caṭakīlī*

*sāmca binā hari hātha na āvai*  
*saba rahanī hai ḍhīlī*

He makes a public show by dancing, singing, making art and composing attractive poetry. However, he forgets the fact that without being a genuine practitioner of *bhakti*, Hari is never attained. All other displays of expertise are going to be in vain.

*bina viveka vairāga bhakti binu*  
*satya na ekau mānau*

*bhagavata vimukha kapaṭa caturā-ī*  
*so pākhaṇḍai jānau*

Do not accept any so-called truth from a person who lacks genuine discrimination, renunciation and *bhakti*. Any person who lives a godless life filled with clever displays of deceit should be known as a charlatan.

*veṣa-dhārī hari ke ura sālai*

In this way, charlatan spiritualists give immense pain to the heart of Hari. 🍊

— Translated by Hari Parshad Das from *Śrī-nimbārka-mādhurī, Kārttika-pūrṇimā*. Page 354. Edited and published by Brahmachari Vihari Sharan. 1997 edition. Printed by Prabhudayal Mital at Agrawal Press, Vrindavan.

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